

Distinguished Colleagues, dear friends,

as you know Lucca Bar association has guested Access to Justice Commission in the last two years and I have been appointed by my local Bar as new President replacing Michele Lucherini (who will still provide his precious support).

We are preparing an outline of access to justice, examining how it has been ruled and guaranteed in our legal systems possibly to improve by comparing different solutions.

We have already collected contributions from several countries and we intend to carry on and complete it.

Therefore we have expressed our desire to have the Commission seated in our Board for another term.

So far we have focused our attention on the following points:

1) LEGAL AID

With the help of Commission members we have pointed out which rule of law - if any - has introduced it in the respective legal systems and we will try to provide a concise outline of it

2) LAWYER'S FEES

An outline of expenses due for proper defence in different countries has been completed.

3) EXPENSES

We plan to make an overall examination on introductory fee and taxation on judgment decision.

4) ADR

We plan to carry on a comparative evaluation of alternative dispute resolutions.

During our works we have verified that adr comes in different forms, according to third party's involvement:

a) In certain cases, he / she helps the parties come to an agreement without expressing an opinion on solutions (i.e. conciliation mediation)

b) In some cases, the third party finds the solution and suggests / proposes it to them.

c) In other cases , the third party is called an "arbitrator" and takes a decision to settle the dispute.

During our meeting we have started an interesting discussion on fiscal treatments of Judge's decision in our respective legal systems (so far, Italy and Germany) which we plan to develop.

Having in mind the content of this meeting in these second step of the Commission work we would like to develop some considerations on access to environmental justice according to the Aarhus Convention.

We must check how things are regulated in our different systems securing that the overall regulamentation of access to justice shall be fair, equitable, timely and not prohibitively expensive.